THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) The Government have received various proposals from social partners for amendment to the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970. The details are yet to be worked out and hence no definite time-limit can be given.

(c) While amending the said Act, views of all social partners would be kept in view and adequate protection to the contract labour would be ensured.

Women workers in night shifts

3048. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to ratify the protocol of 1990 permitting the women work-force to work in the factories during night shifts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to ensure adequate safeguards for occupational safety of the female workers; and

(d) whether Government propose to amend Section 66 of the Factories Act, 1948 for the purpose and if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. With a view to ensuring optimal utilisation of the installed capacity, promotion of export and generation of employment opportunities for women, Government had decided to ratify Protocol of 1990 to the ILO Night Work (women) Convention (Revised), 1948 to provide flexibility in the matter of employment of women during night and related amendment to the Factories Act, 1948.

(c) The occupier of the factory shall be responsible for providing adequate safeguards as regards to occupational safety and health, adequate protection to their dignity, honour and also provide them transportation from factory premises to nearest point of their residence.

(d) Yes, Sir. Amendment to Section 66 of the Factories Act can be made only after registration of the ratification of Protocol of 1990 with the Director General, ILO.